



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

December 2021



close to HOME

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Advent 2021: Close to Home

Many holiday celebrations begin with a journey home; either to an actual place or to be with the family or friends that make any place home. In the midst of these journeys someone nearly always asks the question, “Are we there yet?”

Advent is the ultimate holiday journey. We are making our way toward the home long promised where

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them... ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all God’s holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

We remember the birth of Jesus, the Holy One of God who comes to make this journey with us and show us the way.

Yet we know we are not there yet. The pain of the world and the strife among people and nations demonstrates that. So Advent is full of longing, full of homesickness, you might say, for a world that does not yet exist.

This year we will use resources from *A Sanctified Art* to help us explore this journey toward a home none of us have yet been to. Each week employs music, art, scripture, and story to open our hearts and minds to these Advent promises and prophecies that hit close to home.

Advent 1, November 28: Homesick for A Better World

Advent 2, December 5: Building On the Foundation

Advent 3, December 12: Making a Home for All

Upcoming Worship

All worship services are in-person
and accessible through
Facebook Live
(facebook.com/claremontpres)

Sunday, December 5, 10:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
Luke 21:10-38
Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 12, 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 19, 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Music featuring choir, ensembles,
and soloists
Luke 1:39-55
Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 19, 7:00 PM

Longest Night Service
for those struggling this Christmas
Karen Sapio and
Brian Gaeta-Symods leading

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM

All Generations Service

9:00 PM

Contemplative Christmas Service

11:00 PM

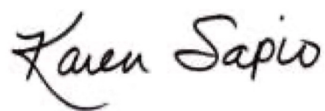
Candlelight Service
with Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26, 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Christmas
Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Advent 4, December 19: Seeking Sanctuary
Christmas Eve: Invited Home
Christmas Sunday, December 26: A Chosen Home
Epiphany Sunday, January 2: Home By Another Way

I am looking forward to making this journey with you.



Adopt a Family is Here!

With an abundance of caution, we are again asking our CPC congregation to give the Deacons a monetary donation in lieu of specific gifts for the children and parents in our annual adopt a family program that we do in concert with Uncommon Good.

As always, we are adopting five families with children ranging in age from 3- 16 years old. All of them have experienced wrenching hardship from loss of employment to sickness, hospitalizations and even death due to this crazy pandemic.

Our goal is to give each family \$200 in gift cards (\$1,000 total) for them to spend as they see fit. It isn't as much fun as opening presents on Christmas Day, but it keeps things a lot safer and is so very practical for them. Hopefully next year we will be back to buying specific gifts for the families.

Please give your contribution through the Alternative Christmas Market by December 12. Checks can be made out to Claremont Presbyterian Church with the notation on the bottom of "Adopt a Family."

Thank you for your generosity. It is sincerely appreciated.

Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end "to do" list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning! The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to "give back" to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

The Society was founded in 2008, and presently there are thirty-six members. You become a member by informing the Church that CPC is included in your estate plans.

Questions? Request a copy of our Bequest Brochure, and the Church will be happy to send one to you. You'll be glad you did – and CPC will be grateful to you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

Highlights from the October Session meeting:

- Noted the deaths of Trudy Orr and Peggy Robertson
- Heard outreach plans for new worship experiences for church and community families
- Treasurer Siedschlag reported on a new unrestricted gift of \$49,000 and \$1,000 for the Deacons
- Adjusted salary issues for several employees
- Approved the preliminary 2022 CPC budget
- Shared many exciting plans for Advent

Presbyterian Synod of Syria and Lebanon seeking our help

Many of you have heard about the economic crisis in Lebanon and Syria. The Lebanese currency has lost more than 90% of its value against the US dollar resulting in severe inflation and pushing more than 50% of the population of Lebanon into poverty.

The synod of the Presbyterian Church in Syria and Lebanon oversees seven private schools in Lebanon and three in Syria. The schools used to fund a great portion of the Synod's ministry work in Syria and Lebanon. These schools enrolled around 10,000 students. Because of the dire economy, hundreds of skilled and experienced workers are leaving Lebanon in order to support their families, including teachers from the Synod schools.

The situation in Lebanon was discussed at the refugee committee and then taken to the mission commission. The mission commission voted to send \$1000 to the Presbyterian Synod in Syria and Lebanon to help with the situation.

I am forever grateful to the generosity of our congregation and our church for always being there to help in times of crisis.

-Mary El Yousef

Order Holiday Treats and Support Refugees

Our new friends from Afghanistan and Syria have traditional family recipes they would like to share with us for the holidays. Our Refugee and Immigration Concerns Team decided to sponsor a pop-up booth to distribute their goods. Drive through and pick-up orders in the church parking lot!

Baklava for Christmas. Pick up Saturday, December 18 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM in the church parking lot. The Kanjo family will offer baklava for \$5, \$10, and \$20. Supplies are limited. Baklava is a delightful dessert and a great gift. It will last until Christmas without refrigeration. We need a final count by December 15.

Donations are welcome, cash or check at pick-up time. Write checks to: Claremont Presbyterian Church, include "baklava" in the memo. 100% of the proceeds go to the cooks.

For more information, or to reserve your order by text or email, contact Judy Kohlen: 909-525-5559 judy.kohlen@gmail.com



Alternative Christmas Market

If you listen to the news at all you are aware of the concern over the supply chain. Ships loaded with cargo are stuck at sea waiting to unload their goods at ports. Will those products arrive in time for Christmas? Shop at the CPC Alternative Christmas Market and your worries are over! All our Mission Partners are ready to receive your donations now!

The virtual Alternative Christmas Market for CPC is in full swing. You should have received a packet in the mail with descriptions of the various mission partners participating, along with a shopping list and a return envelope. Please send those in at your earliest convenience. If you prefer to shop online go to the ACM page on the church website www.claremontpres.org.

What an easy way to shop for Christmas!

We would like you to complete your shopping by December 12 but will cheerfully receive donations after that date. Please give generously. Because of the pandemic these organizations are serving more clients than ever. The need is always there but this year is more severe than ever.

Happy shopping and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Pageant Sunday

During our worship service on Sunday, December 12, we will hear the familiar story of the birth of Jesus as told in dramatic reading. With the accompaniment of musical interludes we will hear the characters share their experiences of when the world changed, not just for them but also for us.

You can be part of this online through the Claremont Presbyterian Church Facebook livestream or in-person in the sanctuary.

Adult Education

The Adult Education Team is excited to invite you to our 2-Part series this December titled "Advent and the Arts." Three well-known and beloved members of our congregation will be sharing their artistry with us in the form of music, metal and woodworking, and master pottery. Learn how their gifts of art

are being offered to the congregation in long-lasting ways. And, please note in the details below that Part 1 is in-person and Part 2 is online.

Advent and the Arts Pt. 1 - December 5 at 8:45 AM in the Sanctuary. "Movement of Music Through Advent" with Geri Demasi in-person. This Forum will be recorded and shared on the church website following the class.

Advent and the Arts Pt. 2 - December 20 at 7:00 PM on Zoom (Meeting ID: 827 1690 5751). "Gifts of Artistry from the Pews" with Jack Caselles and Alan Jack.

A Preview of Adult Ed to come:

Jan/Feb 2022 – Aging and Spirituality: The Role of Child and Parent. As autonomy becomes something to ponder with age, how do we support those whom we love so much with respect and with care?

Lent 2022 – "If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk" by Jon Pavlovitz. Together we will be reading through Pavlovitz's recent book exploring progressive Christianity in a way that invites us to leave a better world than when we arrived. Said about the book, "Thou shalt not be horrible. Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience aspired to this mantra. What if we were fully burdened to create a world that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived? What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence?"

CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 PM we will continue our monthly gathering for a brief time of learning, being challenged, and growing in your faith and as a person. This is not meant to be a long stay, but rather an opportunity to come together for 30-45 minutes. We will check in with each other, hear from experts, and explore growth through challenge. I challenge you to be part of this new youth gathering (Jr/Sr High welcome). For more information contact Pastor Brian 562-674-8407. Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982



Year-End Giving

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2021 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2022. If you are in this group, thank you for your support. For some, however, 2021 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2021 books on a positive note. If restricted, you may designate your gift to support a particular part of our Church's program and outreach.

You might think of your special gift as a Christmas present to CPC, for all that our Church means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: if your gift is made by December 31, it may help reduce your 2021 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

Food Drive Update

We had a terrific turn out for the deacon's food drive, with great participation from the CPC congregation, the Children's Center at CPC, Mountain View Elementary School, Trader Joe's, and the community at large. We filled four large bins with food for Inland Valley Hope Partners, which filled about half their truck! We also raised \$250 in cash. Thank you for your support!



Advent Worship

Close to Home

Sunday, November 28, 10:00 AM

1st Sunday of Advent - Homesick for a Better World
Lighting of the Advent wreath & devotional booklets available.

Sunday, December 5, 10:00 AM

2nd Sunday of Advent - Building on the Foundation
Lighting of the Advent wreath & Communion Sunday with dedication of Advent plate and chalice.
Devotional booklets available.

Sunday, December 12, 10:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent - Making a Home for All
Family Christmas Pageant
Lighting of the Advent wreath.

Sunday, December 19, 10:00 AM

4th Sunday of Advent - Seeking Sanctuary
Christmas choral music featuring choir, ensembles, and soloists. Lighting of the Advent wreath & reception of new members.

Sunday, December 19, 7:00 PM

Longest Night Prayer Service: A Service of Waiting for the Light, including optional Labyrinth Walk.

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Family Service outdoors with Lights and Glow Sticks

9:00 PM Contemplative Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 PM Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26, 10:00 AM

1st Sunday after Christmas - Chosen Home
Final lighting of the Advent wreath.

November 28

Advent Workshop on the church lawn following worship.



December 5

8:45 AM - Adult Ed: Advent and the Arts, Pt. 1 with Geri DeMasi.

December 18

6:00 - 9:00 PM - Outing to California Botanical Gardens Luminaria Festival.

December 19

8:00 - 9:45 AM - Christmas Breakfast in Fellowship Hall & Angell Courtyard with boxed meals.

December 19

1:00 PM - Hiking Mt. Baldy (Ice House Canyon Trail).

December 20

7:00 PM - Adult Ed: Advent and the Arts Pt. 2 with Jack Caselles and Alan Jack. On Zoom.

CLOSE to
HOME



The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

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Annual Christmas Breakfast Is Back On!

Your Evangelism & Nurture Commission are so pleased to be able to re-introduce the Annual Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 19 from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM. This festive gathering which has always warmed our hearts... and our stomachs, is back this Advent season with a way to bring joy, friendship, and food, all while staying safe. Arrive ready to receive your individually packaged cooked meal, grab your utensils and something to drink, and then head to a table with your family or friends. You'll find tables set up inside Fellowship Hall and outside in Angell Courtyard. In an effort to add just a bit more holiday spirit we will have the musical stylings of a Claremont High School orchestral quartet.

Let's come together as we ring in the final days before we welcome the birth of the Christ child.

Family Outings

Saturday, Dec. 18, 6:00 - 9:00 PM: California Botanic Gardens (Lumaria Nights). "Be enchanted at this Claremont tradition where the Garden glows with light for the holidays." CPC families and households are invited to come together to experience the holiday lights in our own "backyard"! Tickets range from \$15/adult to \$8/child. Ordering tickets early will be a good idea as it is a popular event. The church will order 12 adult tickets and 8 children tickets – please let Pastor Brian know if you would like to reserve any tickets.

Sunday, Dec. 19, 1:00 - 3:00 PM: Hiking in Mt. Baldy (Ice House Canyon Trail). A short hike and then a pine cone craft. It'll be a little chilly, bring your jackets and sturdy hiking shoes as we take a brief walk into the woods along this beautiful, stream-lined trail. We invite the children to find the "best" pine cone and then after the hike we'll have a decorating craft. Some of us may continue on to the Mt. Baldy Lodge for hot beverages. Please let Pastor Brian know if you are interested so we can plan to carpool together, if necessary.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$376,088.65	\$383,330.00
Other Income	\$185,186.22	\$77,260.00
Expenses	-\$516,069.66	-\$503,134.00
Variance	\$45,205.21	-\$42,544.00
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$815,296.74	\$534,624.24
Expenses	-\$741,042.92	-\$535,109.78
Variance	\$74,253.82	-\$485.54
Second round PPP Loan has been forgiven. Proceeds are now included in Other Income.		

Ways to Give

As we return to in-person worship, following CDC recommendations, we will still not be passing the offering place. There will be a collection box in the Narthex and all these methods are still available:

- **Check:** As long as the US Mail is still delivering, we can receive contributions by checks mailed to our church office.
- **Online:** You can make an online contribution to Claremont Presbyterian Church by navigating to our website at claremontpres.org/giving-2.
- **Autopay from your checking account:** Your bank should be able to help you set up an electronic payment directly to CPC.
- **Transfer money through your bank or the Zelle app.** Send your money to: giving@claremontpres.org.

Flowers for Worship

Worship flowers, that enhanced our sanctuary and worship services, were donated by the following individuals:

November 7: Sharron Bentley in honor of her husband Bill's birthday on November 9.

November 14: Carlynn Christian, Barbara Myers, Paula Pitzer and Delight Slotemaker de Bruine in celebration of Barbara Patch's 90th birthday and in gratitude for her many years of giving of her time so generously to CPC and to the community.

An arrangement in the narthex was donated by Janet Siedschlag in memory of her parents, Gordon and Patricia Yarborough. November 19 was her dad's birthday and December 12 was her mom's.

November 21: Charles Kerchner in memory of his beloved wife, Leanne Kerchner, on the anniversary of her passing on November 27, 2020.

November 28: By Frank DeLeo in memory of his beloved wife, Phyllis DeLeo, on the anniversary of her passing on November 26, 2020.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration: Let us be observant during this Advent season of preparation and waiting for the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas! In joy, we await the celebration of the promise of our Savior, Jesus Christ, both at birth and looking forward to his return.

For family and friends of loved ones passing: John and Brenda Hill for the passing of his brother-in-law; Sally and Damon Lopez for his father's passing on October 21; Delight Slotemaker de Bruine for the passing of her first cousin, David Bristol Austin, who passed suddenly on November 7 and for the passing of her Aunt Mary Anne (Caroline's sister) on October 24;

Gale Johnson for the passing of his wife, Loie, on October 18.

We remember our friends and family who have lost their loved ones this past year, especially as one-year anniversaries are near:

Joy Beanland, on 11/25/2020

Frank De Leo for Phyllis DeLeo on 11/26/2020

Chuck Kerchner for Leanne Kerchner on 11/27/2020

For Richard Hettish on 11/27/2020

Susan Cave for Robert Cave on 12/18/2020

Marion Thompson for Arnie Thompson on 1/25/2020

For strength and grace: Carlynn and Herb Christian; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck, and her nieces; Ruth Auld, in hospice; Meredith Clayton/Rocky Supinger.

Prayers for continued recovery, healing, and/or on-going treatments for: Lisa Frazier for successful healing following surgery on November 20, accompanied by an optimistic 6-8 weeks of recovery. Sandra Kindle; Barbara Patch, Mary and Ed Hughes; Larry Robertson; Patrick West; Patricia Maine; Sue Likens; Bob Kelly; Frank Pinkerton; Jean Perry.

The compassionate, healing touch of the Holy Spirit for: Rizek & Alice Abusharr; Joyce and Ted Alexander's nephew, Peter, as he begins radiation treatment for cancer; Charles and Virginia Rassieur; Donah Holmes, and her son, Steve, positively moving forward; Pastor Brian and his family; Jim and Lenore Braschler; Kathy Holtan; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; and for all of those who remain unnamed here, but named within our hearts.

For those whom we tenderly remember on an ongoing basis: Joyce & Ted Alexander; Kevin Kessler and his bother, Ken, who are still displaced due to a fire in their family home; Judith Rios, a former CPCC teacher, journeying through stage 4 cancer; John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Phoebe DeVillie; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel; Doug Carrington.

Should you, anyone in your family, or anyone of whom you know, be in need of prayer, and you have their permission to share their name, please send your requests via email to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed or you may wish to include details. Details are shared only as per your direction, otherwise then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.



COMMUNICATOR

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for January *Communicator* - December 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Thursday, Saturday

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday - Friday

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

Wednesday

11:30 AM - Mid-Week Mini Concert (Facebook)

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday

8:00 AM - Morning Meditation (Online Meditation Chapel)



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